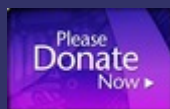




[Click to view this email in a browser](#)



Please help support Our Temple,
Dharma Study, Resident Student
Program & Our Practice Programs
for the Public.

Donations are tax
deductible

Public Practice Schedule

Monday

7:00 am Zazen

7:40 am Morning Chanting Service

6:00 pm Zazen

6:40 pm Evening Chanting Service

Tuesday- Friday

6:00 am Zazen

6:40 am Kinhin (walking
meditation)

6:50 am Zazen

7:20 am Chanting Service

7:40 am Soji (brief temple

April 15, 2014

HSZC.org

Sangha e-Newsletter 2014



Yumen's "Sumeru"

A Monk asked Yuman, "when not producing a single thought, is there any fault or not?"

Yumen said, "Mount Sumeru."

Tiantong's verse:

Not producing a single thought --- Mount Sumeru;

Yumen's gift of teaching is not stingy intent.

If you come with acceptance, he imparts with both hands;

If you go on doubting, it's so high you cant get a hold.

The blue ocean is wide,

The white clouds are peaceful;

cleaning)

6:00 pm Zazen

6:40 pm Chanting Service

Thursdays Study Hour 7:30pm

Saturday

6:30 am Zazen

7:10 am Chanting Service

7:25 am Soji

8:30 am Drop-in instruction

9:25 am Zazen

10:15 am Dharma Talk

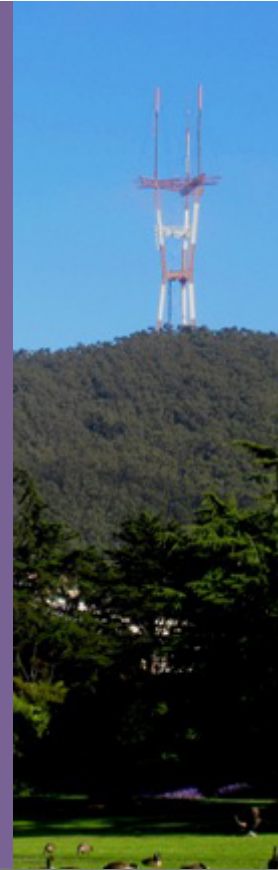
11:00 am Refreshments/Social

Don't put so much as the tip of a hair in there.

A phony cock crow can hardly fool me ---

*I still wont agree to let you pass through the
gate in confusion.*

[The Book of Serenity. Thomas Cleary](#)





HIV Meditation Sitting Group
weekly meditation group for those
living with HIV, their friends,
families, community supporters &
anyone who wants to join us!
Thursdays & Fridays

10:30 am zazen

11:00 am garden socializing



Kijun Steve Allen @ SFZC (in brush stroke texture filter)



Upcoming Events:

Dharma Talks- [Rev. Myō Lahey](#) - Apr 19,26 May 10,17,24,31 @10:15am

Guest Speaker Saturdays - April 26 [Laura Burges](#); **May 3 Elaine Donlin**;
June 7 [Konin Cardenas](#); **July 19 Renshin Bunce**; July 26 [Jamie Howell](#);
August 16 Hobu Beata Chapman; August 30 [Mark Lancaster](#); September 13
[Jisan Tova Green](#); December 27 [Mark Lancaster](#)

Full Moon Ceremony - Saturday, May 11 @ 11am

Sangha Council - May 10, 2014 @ 12:30pm

Founder's Memorial - Issan's Memorial is generally on the 6th of the
month, & the memorial for Philip Whalen is generally on the 26th @
6:40pm

Study Hour - Book of Serenity, we have books to share, we read together,

Meditation in Recovery

(Men & Women)

weekly meditation group for men & women in recovery from addiction

Fridays, 7:30 pm - 9 pm**Women's Meditation in Recovery**

(Women only)

monthly meditation group for women in recovery from addiction.
First Thursdays**7:15 pm - 8:45 pm**

feel free to drop-in - Thursdays @7:30pm

Next Board of Directors' Meeting - Second Wednesdays of the month
May 14th @7:30pm You're welcome to attend & observe.**Hartford Street Sangha practice session at Tassajara - July 8th through the 11th --- 2014.****Winter Study Period** - (similar to a practice period) is **planned to kick off** around Sejiki (Late October) and run through Rohatsu and the Winter Light 5 day retreat (Early December).**Rev. Myo will be teaching a class at SFZC!** - April 24th @ 7:30pm to 9pm on "The Platform Sutra: A Guest from Outside Creation"
For details and/or tickets, [click here!](#)

Words From Our Abbot: Rev Myō Lahey

...**One of the problems with promises** is people will hear something that sounds like a promise and they will think it something they already recognize. And then they can spend a long time missing what is obvious because they are still looking for this thing they thought up as "that must be it". That must be such and such. For years the remarkable phenomena of our life go by without being appreciated because they don't fit that picture, so that's a little bit of a problem with promises which is why many of our ancestors avoided that stuff; or they cloaked the promise in an extremely unlikely or peculiar way to make it less likely that people would find something to hang on to, that would eventually obstruct their experience...

...A famous Tang Dynasty Master Mazu, Master Ma: People would ask him "how do you go about teaching?" or "what is the attaching of Zen?" He would say: "To begin with it is like giving autumn leaves to a child and saying: aren't these pretty? They're gold". And the kid is like aww yeahhh umm, and then eventually you let them know well actually it's not like that, there's no gold, no leaves. And that's another point of encounter with the practice. And sometimes people will of themselves come to this point where they realize "hey whatever I was promised that doesn't seem to be for real, so what is really going on, what is real?"

Master Ma says no mind no Buddha. First it was this "mind is Buddha" that is like giving autumn leave to a child and saying "it's gold" oh cool this mind is Buddha, and then at some point it's like wait, what does that mean, and then there is another teaching which is "no mind, no Buddha". And then well, could that become a problem too? And then Master Ma says, well yeah, and someone says "what do you do then?" And Master Ma says "have a cup of tea" which is actually the supreme teaching...

Valley Streams Zen Sangha Talk - August 13, 2013



Hartford Street History

May 6, 2007 — David Chadwick Interview with Kijun Steve Allen, Former HSZC Abbot, now at [Dragon Mountain Temple](#):

...SA: I went to Issan's cremation, I did Issan's cremation, which was bizarre again, it was done in a warehouse, I mean basically all these bodies were just being taken out and put into the fire but we took his body there and we refused to leave.

DC: Yeah.

SA: His body was put into this refrigerator and then he was on this timetable, you know, to be put into this furnace, I just stayed there and actually the person who was there was moved by the fact that I don't think anyone had ever stayed.

DC: How many of you were there?

SA: There were about eight of us. Something like that that came over. And then we did a ceremony with Kobun. Kobun was there. And he sort of led us through this whole process which was great and but then they all left and Shunko [Mike Jamvold] and I stayed, I was not going to leave until this was done, and so we – we got to see him cooking

DC: There was a glass window?

SA: Yeah, you could actually see - there was a little window.

DC: Well, was he wrapped up or

SA: Well, you know, he had his robes on,

DC: So you actually saw him burning?

SA: Right.



DC: Wow.

SA: So this is the link to this new thing that's happening in Crestone – having open cremations, because it's strong and it's very powerful. With Issan I actually had this - at one point, at one point in the process, his body you basically could still see the structure of his body but there was a flame right at his heart, it was the most amazing experience – a bright flame rising from his heart.

DC: Have you asked any Tibetans about that?

SA: No, I haven't

DC: Yeah, they'd be the people to ask about that, it sounds familiar to me having read the Tibetan Book of Living and Dying a couple of times – to Ananda.

SA: Yeah, just this concentration of fire at the heart, and then, I forgot how long it took, it must have been an hour or hour and a half. And then the process was over. I guess in this process what they do is they take the ashes and there's still some bone, and they grind it up, and they put it into a plastic bag and put it into a cart and then put a name on it. So but before they did that process Shunko and I got some pieces of his own bone which I still have and we have the ashes.

DC: Relics.

SA: The relics, yeah, and but then you know, some days after this, we had most of his ashes, I had already separated out some of the ashes to keep, it was actually on the altar downstairs in the zendo and they were stolen.

DC: That's right were they ever recovered?

SA: They weren't, not as far as any of us know.

DC: I remember that. I was in Japan.

SA: Somebody, a friend of mine was just horrified that about Issan having stolen ashes? And I said, well to tell you the truth, all they got were the ashes,

DC: Yes, right.

SA: [laughs]

DC: Well said.

SA: But you know, there are obviously I think really deep deep connecting energies in this dying process and cremation and taking care of these transitions are extremely important to our mental health and psychology and that why we did the hospice for four years and had [Hartford Street Zendo](#) students learn about this with help from Yvonne. It was hard because of all kinds of craziness happening there but I really believe in that work and I certainly believe in this process of sitting with the body of the deceased for three days and doing a cremation ceremony, and creating a monument to hold that image in your heart that keeps open what normally closes off I think for most people.

DC: When you say monument what do you mean?

SA: Like a stone.

DC: Mm-hmm.

SA: Like we came to Tassajara nine months later and found a stone for Issan, which has been in the back yard of Hartford Street.

DC: Are any of his ashes here at Tassajara?

SA: We did an ashes scattering ceremony up on the hogback where we brought Suzuki Roshi's ashes.

DC: One thing, Jordan brought up with me is we need a map of who are those stupas for? And Susan O'Connell suggested we should have a list of people who's ashes are there because there are people who's ashes that don't have any stupa, like you just gave an example.

SA: I went up there yesterday to pay my respects...

[David Chadwick's Website for: an archival site on the life and world of Shunryu Suzuki and those who knew him.](#)

Sangha Member Muse -

A haiku inspired by looking out of the chiden area at Tassajara onto the back wall of the library:

Ancient plum tree shadows on a whitewashed wall
Afternoon breeze
Smeared ink.

-- Tanzen.

Other Holidays or Events:

[Total Lunar Eclipse](#) - Wed, April 15th

[Earth Day](#) - Tues, April 22nd

[Arbor Day](#) - Fri, April 25th

[May Day](#) / [International Workers Day](#) - Thur, May 1

[Cinco de Mayo](#) - Mon, May 5th

Seeking a **LGBTQI, Buddhist space for your wedding**? HSZC & Abbot Rev. Myō Lahey can be a part of this amazing & love filled ceremony. HSZC can house your Zen Buddhist Wedding ceremony & Rev Myō can perform weddings! Please email hszc108@yahoo.com, call us, or a better way yet is to stop in & discuss during our publicly open hours.



Abbot, Hartford Street Zen Center (HSZC) --- Reverend Myō Lahey



57 Hartford Street
San Francisco, CA 94114



info@hszc.org

415.863.2507

Please submit stories, reflections, personal news, artwork & photography for future newsletters to

KeiDo at tetsugen.keido@yahoo.com

May this newsletter find you well & equanimous! __/__

**vertical
response**
A DELUXE COMPANY
Free Email Marketing >>